CLAIMS

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- 1. A composition comprising a fiber which comprises or has coated thereon a thin film wherein said thin film has a thickness of less than 1000 nm, preferably less than 500 nm, and comprises or is produced from a fluorocarbon silane or an emulsion, said emulsion comprises or is produced from (1) a fluorocarbon silane or its hydrolyzate, (2) water, and (3) optionally a surfactant, an alkoxysilane compound, catalyst, or combinations of two or more thereof; said fluorocarbon silane has the formula $R_{f^-}(CH_2)_p$ -Si $\{-(O-CH_2CH_2)_n-OR^1\}_3$; R_f is a C_{3-18} perfluoroalkyl group or combinations of two or more thereof; each R^1 is independently one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups; p is 2 to 4; and n is 2 to 10.
- 2. The composition of claim 1 wherein said thin film further comprises, or is produced from, a copolycondensate of said fluorocarbon silane, said surfactant, and said alkoxysilane.
- 3. The composition of claim 1 or 2 wherein said fiber is an aromatic polyamide fiber, an aromatic polyester fiber, a heterocyclic aromatic fiber, or combinations of two or more thereof.
- 4. The composition of claim 3 wherein said fiber is a p-phenylene terephthalamide fiber.
- 5. A textile product comprising or produced from a fiber wherein said fiber is as recited in claim 1, 2, 3, or 4.
- 6. The product of claim 5 wherein said product is a woven product, a knit product, a nonwoven fabric, or combinations of two or more thereof; and is preferably a woven fabric for protective clothing, a firefighting apparel, or a glove.
- 7. A process comprising (1) combining a fluorocarbon silane or its hydrolyzate, water, and optionally a surfactant, an alkoxysilane compound, catalyst, or combinations of two or more thereof to produce a mixture; (2) optionally heating said mixture to produce an emulsion; and (3) producing a thin film of said emulsion onto a fiber wherein said thin film has a thickness of less than 1000 nm, preferably less than 500 nm; said thin film is as recited in claims 1, 2, 3, or 4; said fluorocarbon silane having the formula R_f -(CH₂)_p-Si{-(O-CH₂CH₂)_n-OR¹}₃; R_f is a C_{3-18} perfluoroalkyl group or combinations of two or more thereof; each R^1 is independently one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups; p is 2 to 4; and n is 2 to 10.
- 8. The process of claim 7 wherein said fiber is an aromatic polyamide fiber, an aromatic polyester fiber, a heterocyclic aromatic fiber, or combinations of two or more thereof.

9. The process of claim 8 further comprising producing a woven product, a knit product, a nonwoven fabric, or combinations of two or more thereof.